DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abraham, I am afraid you have rather mistaken the functions of this Assembly, and that you have forgotten to what body you are speaking. I should imagine that all that you have said today might be quite relevant at a general meeting of the share-holders of the State-aided Bank. As it happens, this Assembly is not a general meeting of the share-holders of the State-aided Bank. The State-aided Bank lives and has its being entirely apart from the Government. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. In these the Government—now that the bank has come into being and is carrying on work—have nothing whatsoever to do neither as to the directors who are elected by the general body of share-holders nor in the appointment of the Manager which is entirely in the hands of the directors; nor in the matter of the way in which it conducts its work. I would therefore suggest that you and others who think with you acquire a large block of shares in the State-aided Bank and with the vote you will thus command, make your representations at the next general meeting and repeat them at as many successive general meetings as you find it necessary and convenient, to induce the Bank to accept your views and ideas.

2. The advisability of making Chengannur the head-quarters of the Tiruvalla taluk, or in the alternative, constituting Chengannur into a separate taluk with a sub-treasury of its own.

MR. T. K. THOMAS (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) said that in point of population, revenues and literacy the taluk held a position unique among the various taluks of the State. But the officers as much as the people of the taluk were at a great disadvantage in one respect, *viz.*, in regard to the location of its head-quarters in the Tiruvalla pakuthi at the north-western end of the taluk. The member illustrated his point by reference to a sketch-map which, he said, showed clearly that the geometrical centre of the taluk was at Chengannur and hence Chengannur was the best fitted place for being the head-quarters of the taluk. Besides, Chengannur was the seat of the Division Assistant, the Assistant Inspector of Schools, the Excise Inspector and the Sanitary Circle Officer. It would therefore facilitate the work of these officers and of the public to a great extent if all the offices were centralised at Chengannur.

The absence of a sub-treasury at Chengannur caused no small inconvenience to the public and to the officers. The latter, of whom, as had already been stated, there were many at the place had to make remittances and draw bills almost every day. They alone realised the inconvenience and trouble to which they were put by the absence of a sub-treasury.

If the head-quarters of the taluk could not for any reason be shifted to Chengannur, then Government might divide the taluk into two parts each with separate head-quarters and with a separate sub-treasury. The taluk comprised at present no fewer than twenty-seven pakuthies

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with a population equal to one-fifth of the entire population of the whole State. It was conceivable with what efficiency a single Tahsildar whould be able to exercise supervision over this vast area. In fact, Chengannur and Tiruvalla were too big to be tied together. If they were not separated now, a time would come very soon when they would have to be separated.

In case, however, Government were not able to see eye to eye with the member on either of these proposals, he would request that at least a sub-treasury might be established at Chengannur. This would not involve much financial outlay in so far as the control of the treasury could be entrusted to the Division Assistant, who, if at all, might only have to be given a few additional clerks.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. T. K. Thomas, your requests are, firstly, that something big should be done, and secondly, if that is not possible, that something little should be done, which is always an expedient way of looking at one's ambitions.

In the matter of the Chengannur and Tiruvalla taluks, from the sketch which you so kindly gave to me, I find that geometrically as you put it, the centre should be somewhere in Edanad-that is, neither at Thiruvalla nor at Chengannur. That is according to measurements of space.

But that is not merely the consideration on which head quarters of taluks are fixed. You have got to realise considerations such as places of convenience, affinities, population, needs where justice is dispensed and various other considerations. Six years ago, after very careful investigation and study, it was decided to make Tiruvalla the headquarters of the taluk and so far the arrangement has worked very satisfactorily. Chengannur being a place of some little importance, a certain number of officers were left there rather than have them all cramped together in one place. It is not in the interests either of ataluk or of the officers of the taluk who are staffed there, nor in the interests of the Government that there should be a frequent chopping and changing of head-quarters. Six years is indeed a very short spell of time and it is not possible to retransfer the headquarters at present. I shall await your prediction and see if it comes true.

Turning to your latter request, I may mention that the whole question of treasury arrangement in the State is under consideration and if in the course of the revision it should be found necessary that Chengannur should have a sub-treasury, the matter wili certainly be considered. But at the present time, all I need say with reference to your remark that nobody realises the necessity of a sub-treasury as the officers, is that I have received no such representation from the officers at Chengannur.

3. Administration of land revenue.

MR. P. AMRITHANATHA IYER (*Member, Ambalapuzha taluk, Group I*) dealt first with the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases by Tahsildars. In regard to this, two defects were mainly pointed out by him. In

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